

COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of July 25, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council, Amendola called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council to Order, in the Council Chambers of the Community Center of the Municipal Building. The Flag Salute led by Mr. O'Brien.

ROLL CALL, by Manager Scott, recorded Six (6) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Ms. Damits, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Perry, Mr. Levasseur and Ms. Amendola. Absent was Ms. Glaser. Also present Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Gladys, Engineer Minsterman and Manager Scott.

BILL LIST APPROVAL

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Levasseur*) to approve the Bill List dated July 25, 2016 as presented.

MOTION #1 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (6-0).

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/O'Brien*) to accept the Minutes of the Meeting dated July 11, 2016 as presented.

MOTION #2 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/O'Brien*) to accept the Minutes of the Public Hearing regarding the Burning Ordinance held on July 11, 2016 as presented.

MOTION #3 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL/Agenda Items Only:

Ms. Amendola noted one resident was signed up to speak on Agenda Items. She asked Ms. Watson to come up to the microphone and address Council.

Kathleen Watson, 74 Fountain inquired as to the status of the property at 78 Fountain, she noted her understanding was the Borough provided him with a listing of items that need to be completed. Solicitor Gladys noted that the list of items have not been completed, and the Borough will continue to pursue the matter, the trial is set for December.

Ms. Watson noted, she goes to the Crafton Pool regularly, and noted that the operation of the pool is extremely smooth and acknowledged the hard work and efforts of the Pool Manager and the entire staff.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS (June 2016)

Council acknowledged receipt of the following Monthly Reports; Treasurers Report, Financial Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Reports, Property Tax Collection, Police, Fire and NW EMS Report, Ordinance Officer's and Building Inspection Report, Engineer's Report, Public Works Report, Fire Department Report and the Library report.

Ms. Scott noted the Borough has not received the Fire Department report, however, next month, we anticipating receiving a report for June and July.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bloom stated that the Traffic Monitor was placed at the bottom of Willard at Clearview Avenue (southbound). A copy of the traffic analysis report was provided to Council. He noted the total volume of vehicles between June 6 and June 26 was 3,342, with an average speed of 22 mph, noting the posted speed is 25 mph. The Mayor stated there were no traffic violations recorded in the area during this time. He noted the traffic monitor is now located on the opposite side of the street (northbound) and will remain in place through July. He noted that Council may consider adopting a resolution to install a stop sign at the bottom of Willard at Clearview in August after the second analysis report is received.

The Mayor deferred to Ms. Scott regarding the next item on his Agenda, 106 Chartiers Avenue, he was out of town for the past few weeks. Ms. Scott noted we had been working with Representative Deasy, and the City of Pittsburgh in reference to trees along Chartiers Creek. The resident has requested the trees be trimmed and topped off for over a year, he is concerned they may fall on his home, as had happened in the past. Ms. Scott noted, she received confirmation today, that the City was down on Chartiers Avenue today and completed the work. The trees in the area were topped off, the trunks were left intact for stabilization of the hillside.

The Mayor announced on July 30, 2016, Noble Manor Lanes is hosting a "Hero Day". Police Officers, Fire Department and EMS are invited to the bowling lanes for free bowling and fun between Noon and 6:00 pm. Notification has been provided to the Departments.

Mr. Levasseur noted, that he would like to see the speed monitors remain posted on Willard a little longer. He noted that Clearview and Willard are used as a cut-through, with the roadwork being completed on Harris, the volume of vehicles is reduced. Ms. Scott noted that the Public Works Department plans on moving the monitor to the northerly (opposite) side for a period of 30 days, and the road work on Harris is anticipated to be completed by the end of July.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Minsterman noted there were three items on the Agenda this evening that require approval for Payment; O&M Point Repair Project to Roto Rooter, \$76,937.50; 2016 Road Program to Mele and Mele, \$106,180.55; and Pool Splash Pad Final Payment in the amount \$17,204.94; All of these pay requests have been reviewed by the engineer, and each are recommended for payment.

Mr. Minsterman noted that ALCOSAN GROW Project is a grant program, funded by ALCOSAN, for projects that will reduce or remove the amount of inflow in the sewer system. Crafton will be submitting two letters of interest for projects, Thomas Street and a proposed Green Infrastructure Project in Crafton Park. ALCOSAN has budgeted \$85 million dollars in funding over a period of ten years, for source reduction projects.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Gladys noted there was a Public Hearing held on Monday, July 11, 2016 beginning at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers in reference to the Proposed Ordinance on Burning Regulations in Crafton. He noted following the Hearing, there were proposed amendments to the Ordinance Council and the Public wanted to incorporate. Most of these revisions were primarily in Section 113-2 incorporating Allegheny County regulations into the Ordinance. He noted in speaking with Members of Council, there are additional amendments Council wishes to incorporate before the Ordinance is adopted.

Mr. Gladys stated, Council had two options at this time; The First Option being Council could vote and enact the Ordinance as presented and vote and add amendments for consideration, or Council could work on finalizing the amendments, incorporate into the Ordinance and adopt a final at a later date. After discussion, Council opted to consider adopting the Ordinance as presented, and to add, review, discuss and consider adoption of the individual amendments.

Ms. Amendola recommended that Council consider adopting the ordinance this evening, as this matter has been on the Agenda, discussed, studied and revised by Council for many months.

Ms. Amendola noted her recommendations for amendments; The first recommendation pertained to Section 113-2; Item No. 3, Time limitation for outdoor burning, she recommends Council eliminate or adjust the time limit from 11:00 pm to 2:00 am; the second recommendation was Section 113-8 Eliminate this Section completely, the requirement of a Permit to Burn, she believed that requiring a permit to burn would be an administrative nightmare. Ms. Damits noted she agreed with both of the revisions.

Solicitor Gladys suggested that the President ask each Member of Council their revisions and allow discussion on the matter.

Ms. Amendola inquired if Mr. O'Brien had any recommendations or revisions. Mr. O'Brien responded he would like to see the residents of the Community provided education materials on Safe Burning. Ms. Amendola noted that the Fire Chief mentioned this at the last meeting, he is interested in updating the current flyer on Fire Prevention and Safe Burning to include the adopted ordinance.

Mr. Levasseur noted in the future, should the Borough find the need to respond to recreation fires on numerous occasions, that consideration to add the permit requirements back into the ordinance be considered. Perhaps the fees collected could be utilized in the Borough Fire Prevention Program in the future.

Ms. Damits asked the Mayor his opinion on requiring a permit for recreational burning. Mayor Bloom responded, it would put an undue burden on the Police Department to enforce. He explained, would the resident be required to post the permit, what if you decided to have a recreation fire on the spur of the moment with your neighbors, what if it rained and the weather didn't allow for having a fire that evening, is the permit cancelled, and maintaining a data base. He saw a number of problems and issues to enforce permitting recreational fires.

The Mayor noted that if the time limitation was revised to Midnight or one or two am in the Ordinance, and there was noise violation, that would be addressed by the Police Department under the Crimes Code. He stated throughout the years, recreational fires have not been an issue of complaints for the Police.

Mr. Levasseur noted the Fire Chief recommended at the previous meeting, the time limitations for safety reasons, if a fire was not put out properly at a home, more people would be more likely to notice a safety hazard at 11:00 pm rather than 2:00 am. Ms. Amendola noted that every resident that chooses to have a recreational fire at their home should practice fire safety.

Doug Johnson, 25 Emily Street, spoke out to mention that at the last meeting Councilman Amendola made mention to the penalty section of the Ordinance and this matter wasn't addressed this evening. He inquired if an amendment considered tonight would be included in the adopted ordinance?

Mr. Amendola noted in accordance with the Borough Code, (copy provided) the penalty section needs to be revised. The Code states that Council can impose a criminal fine not to exceed \$1,000. Therefore, the penalty section of the ordinance needs to be not to exceed \$1,000, a sliding penalty, determined by the magistrate. The other portion of the penalty section, subject to imprisonment for a period not to exceed thirty days (30), should remain.

Ms. Perry inquired, once a motion is put on the floor regarding the Ordinance, would there be time for discussion. Ms. Amendola acknowledged there would be time for discussion on the ordinance and all amendments.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Damits/F. Amendola*) to adopted Ordinance No. 1637 updating Burning Regulations in the Borough of Crafton.

Ms. Perry noted, that the proposed Ordinance strengthens the outdoor burning regulations, however, relaxes the indoor burning regulations. She noted it makes it difficult to cast a clear vote, as these two issues are completely separate. Ms. Amendola noted these revisions to burning regulations do incorporate indoor and outdoor burning. She noted, if she cared to submit an amendment for indoor burning, Council would certainly consider.

MOTION #4 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Roll Call Voice Vote (5-1).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Damits*) to Amend Ordinance No. 1637 by removing Section 113-8 requiring a Permit to operate an outdoor recreational fire.

MOTION #5 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Roll Call Voice Vote (5-1).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Levasseur*) to Amend Ordinance No. 1637 revising Section 113-2; Item No. 3, Open or outdoor fires may only be actively burning until eleven (11) o'clock P.M.

Mr. Amendola inquired as to revised time limitation; noting that some Members of Council had suggested Midnight, while others 2:00 am, what time was to be considered for the revision. Mr. O'Brien noted if a noise violation would be addressed under the criminal code, he suggested removing any and all time restrictions. Mr. Levasseur noted, he had concerns on removing the time limitations for fire safety reasons.

Ms. Amendola withdrew the motion to limit revise or alter Ordinance No. 1637, Section 113-2; Item No. 3, Open or outdoor fires may only be actively burning until eleven (11) o'clock P.M.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Damits/F. Amendola*) to Amend Ordinance No. 1637 to eliminate Section 113-2; Item No. 3, Open or outdoor fires may only be actively burning until eleven (11) o'clock P.M., no time restriction.

MOTION #6 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Roll Call Voice Vote (4-2).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Damits*) to Amend Ordinance No. 1637 revising Section 113-8; to remove the verbiage of a fine of not less than three hundred dollars (\$300) or more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000); To be Revised to the payment of a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

MOTION #7 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Roll Call Voice Vote (5-1).

Ms. Amendola noted that all of the amendments have been completed, the solicitor will prepare a revised, clean copy of the ordinance and submit to the Borough Manager for signatures to be affixed.

Mr. Gladys stated that Crafton and Ingram share a Code Enforcement Officer, and during the budget sessions each Community agreed to share the cost of provide him with a vehicle to utilize during business operations. An Intergovernmental Agreement has been prepared and submitted to Council for approval, along with a Resolution, which is on the Agenda under Public Safety.

Mr. Gladys noted that in reference to 78 Fountain Avenue, an internal inspection of the structure has been completed and building inspector prepared a listing of violations and submitted to the owner. He had until July 8, 2016 to complete the repairs. As of this date, the repairs have not been completed.

Mr. Gladys noted, the last item on the Agenda is in reference to 96 Noble. There is limited scope of options regarding this problem property/owner. There aren't any current violations at the time. He suggested the Code Enforcement Officer visit the property again for any additional violations.

BUSINESS AGENDA

PUBLIC WORKS

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/F. Amendola*) to authorize Payment Request No. 2 for the O&M Point Repair Project Year 5, completed by completed by Roto-Rooter, in the amount of \$76,937.50, payable to SHACOG as recommended by the Engineer.

MOTION #8 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Levasseur/F. Amendola*) to authorize Payment for the 2016 Road Program Estimate No. 1 to Mele and Mele, Inc., in the amount of \$ \$106,180.55, as recommended by the Engineer.

Mr. Levasseur asked the engineer to speak with the contractor regarding cleaning up the neighborhood from trash while working. He has received numerous complaints around his neighborhood about trash thrown about. The Engineer acknowledged he will speak with the contractor.

MOTION #9 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/O'Brien*) to authorize Final Payment Request for the Pool Splash Pool/Pad completed by Stoneridge, Inc. in the amount of \$17,204.94 as recommended by the Engineer.

Ms. Amendola inquired if all of the maintenance items have been completed. The Manager noted that these minor items will be completed under the Maintenance Bond.

MOTION #10 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. O'Brien noted no update on the Comprehensive Plan at this time. Mr. Levasseur noted a group of volunteers were present during Crafton Celebrates to receive feedback from residents on the Plan.

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Damits*) to Appoint Lynn Nickel as the Regular Member of the Civil Service Commission, with a term expiring on July 1, 2022.

MOTION #11 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Ms. Amendola noted there are still two (2) vacancies available on the Commission for alternate members, term expiring 5/20/2020. Anyone interested should submit a letter of interest to Borough Office.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Perry*) to accept the 2014 and 2015 Civil Service Annual Report as submitted by the Commission.

MOTION #12 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Damits*) to adopt Resolution NO. 2016-06 to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Ingram Borough regarding the Code Enforcement Officer Vehicle, as discussed and included during 2016 Budget Sessions.

MOTION #13 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Ms. Amendola asked the Manager to provide information regarding the Fire Department request for assistance with the purchase of additional turn out gear. Ms. Scott stated she received an email from Fire Chief Crown on the matter. Fortunately, the Department is seeing an influx of Volunteers. Unfortunately, with additional members, the purchase of turn out gear is necessary. The volunteers must receive the proper training and be properly outfitted when responding to a fire.

The Fire Department is requesting Council to consider sharing in the purchase of six (6) sets of gear for an amount of \$14,299.80. He suggested the Borough could move monies included in the budget under line item Equipment Sinking Fund a value of \$22,000.00. These monies are transferred each December and will be utilized for the purchase of Fire Equipment (fire truck, pumper, etc.), when necessary.

As a note, in 2005 the CVFD received a Federal Grant for \$87,000 for turnout gear which we bought. The typical life expectancy is 10 years. We care for our gear and continually and cautiously monitor and repair it, hence we are exceeding the standards.

Mr. Amendola noted the Fire Department pays for gear out of the monies received through the Fireman's Relief Fund. He met with the Chief Crown and they would be willing to pay one-third of the total cost or \$5,000 and is requesting the Borough to pay the balance, approximately \$10,000. Ms. Perry noted, that the suggestion to reduce the monies budgeted for Equipment Sinking Fund by \$10,000 would not impact the Borough budget, simply just move monies to a different budgeted line item. Ms. Amendola agreed, and stated she would hate to see the Department turn volunteers away. Mr. O'Brien noted this will impact the equipment fund and asked if monies remain in the budget at year end, could we consider transferring the entire amount to the fund. Ms. Scott noted, we can certainly review the budget at the end of the year to consider transferring the entire amount.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*O'Brien/F. Amendola*) to authorize transferring \$10,000 allocated in the Budget under the Fire Department Equipment Sinking Fund to Minor Equipment Purchases, to be utilized for the purchase of Turn Out Gear at an estimated total cost of \$14,299.80, (approximately two-thirds of the total cost), and the balance being the responsibility of the Fire Department.

MOTION #14 was moved and seconded by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Amendola made the following Announcements;

RECREATION BOARD - Is looking for Volunteers to serve on the Board and/or volunteer to assist with the Senior Dinners (3rd Saturday of the month). Next Dinner – 9/17/16
Mini Golf Fundraiser – August 4 & 5 and August 11 & 12; 18 & under \$2
Adults \$3; 6 pm to 9 pm. Last admission 8:15 pm.

CRAFTON PERFORMING ARTS – Concerts begin July 14 – August 18, 2016
Thursday Evenings – 7:30 pm at Crafton Park

CRAFTON/INGRAM ROTARY – RIBFEST – Thursday, August 4, Crafton Park
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm – Call (412) 922-2284 for tickets

ALLEGHENY COUNTY VACANT PROPERTY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Is accepting Applications to interested property owners to acquire vacant properties at a reduced cost, the property owner must share a common boundary. Applications due by 8/31/16.
Flyers regarding the program are available on the website and at the sign-in table in the back.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Amendola noted no citizen signed up to speak before Council.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved and seconded (*F. Amendola/Damits*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

MOTION #15 was carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Ann C. Scott
Borough Manager